

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL and NOT to be published or broadcast before:

Evening Newspapers - Wednesday, 21 August 1968

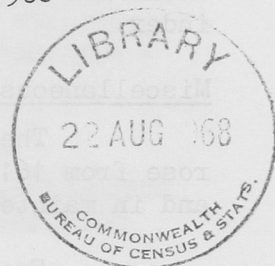
Morning Newspapers - Thursday, 22 August 1968

Broadcasting and Television - 11 a.m., Wednesday, 21 August 1968

DEPOSIT COPY
MAY NOT
BE BORROWED

RETAIL PRICES AND WAGE RATES, JUNE QUARTER 1968

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of privately owned and government owned houses, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1952-53 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

JUNE QUARTER 1968

There was no change in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from March quarter 1968 to June quarter 1968, the index number for both quarters being 149.4. Compared with June quarter 1967, the increase was 2.7 per cent.

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between March quarter 1968 and June quarter 1968 is shown below.

Food Group

The Food Group of the index decreased from 160.5 to 159.2, a decrease during the quarter of 0.8 per cent. A seasonal decrease in the price of potatoes was chiefly responsible for the fall in this group.

Clothing and Drapery Group

This group index rose 0.5 per cent, from 126.9 to 127.5. Chief increases were in men's and women's clothing.

Housing Group

The Housing Group index rose from 172.4 to 173.4, an increase of 0.6 per cent.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

This group index showed an increase of 0.6 per cent, from 117.8 to 118.5. Increases in the price of household durables were recorded in this sector of the index.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. The index rose from 161.1 to 161.5, chiefly because of increases in prices of motor vehicles and in maintenance charges.

From March quarter 1968 to June quarter 1968 the Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals with the exception of Brisbane which recorded no change. Percentage increases were as follows: Adelaide, 1.5; Melbourne, 1.0; Perth, 0.8; Sydney, 0.7; and Hobart, 0.1.

Since the base year, 1952-53, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Brisbane and smallest in Sydney. Percentage increases from 1952-53 to June quarter 1968 were as follows: Brisbane, 49.4; Hobart, 47.7; Melbourne, 47.4; Perth, 43.4; Adelaide, 42.6; and Sydney, 41.7. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 44.6 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate industrial authorities from time to time, and prevailing basic wage rates (which used to be determined in part by price movements) were shown in issues of this Bulletin up to March quarter 1967. In a decision given on 5 June 1967, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission eliminated the separate concepts of basic wage and margins from its awards and removed any remaining link between the index numbers and Commonwealth wage rates. The Commission added \$1 per week to all wage rates for adult males and females prescribed under existing awards, the increases to operate from the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 1967.

Following the Commonwealth wage judgment, the industrial authorities of the various States granted wage increases to employees under their awards. In Queensland, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission increased wage rates by \$1 per week by way of a "general ruling" which applied from 3 July 1967. In all other States likewise, excepting Western Australia, the increase applied was \$1 per week for adult males and adult females.

In Western Australia the minimum weekly wage payable to adult male workers under certain awards was increased by \$1 per week, and wage rates for adult males and females not in receipt of the minimum wage were increased by 60 cents per week, as from the beginning of the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 1967.

In a majority decision dated 6 December 1967, the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission refused an application by employees' organisations seeking an addition to the Queensland basic wage based on the movement of the Consumer Price Index. The Commission stated that, in view of the

increase of \$1 per week granted on economic grounds as from 3 July 1967, no further increase was justified. The Commission made it clear, however, that it had made no decision that it would not consider any application for a variation in the Queensland basic wage until after the Commonwealth Commission had made a further adjustment.

320-330 Adelaide Street,
BRISBANE 4000
19 August 1968

S. E. SOLOMON
DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN
AND GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning
Brisbane 33 5011, Extension 465.

Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1958-59 ..	119.8	109.4	128.4	109.0	123.6	118.2
1959-60 ..	124.2	111.9	132.6	110.6	125.6	121.2
1960-61 ..	130.4	115.1	137.6	111.3	129.5	125.4
1961-62 ..	130.8	116.7	140.5	113.0	133.3	127.3
1962-63 ..	129.8	117.0	144.0	112.8	134.4	127.7
1963-64 ..	133.1	117.8	145.2	111.7	135.2	129.0
1964-65 ..	141.5	119.5	149.0	112.7	140.9	133.9
1965-66 ..	150.9	121.0	158.3	115.0	148.7	140.4
1966-67 ..	153.5	123.7	162.8	116.5	155.8	144.0
1967-68 ..	159.1	126.7	172.2	117.9	160.8	148.8
<u>Quarter</u>						
1967: June ..	155.7	125.1	164.2	117.2	156.9	145.5
September	159.0	125.6	171.0	117.6	159.4	148.0
December	157.6	126.6	171.8	117.7	161.0	148.3
1968: March ..	160.5	126.9	172.4	117.8	161.1	149.4
June ..	159.2	127.5	173.4	118.5	161.5	149.4
Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) on Previous Quarter						
<u>Quarter</u>						
1967: June ..	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
September	2.1	0.4	4.1	0.3	1.6	1.7
December	-0.9	0.8	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.2
1968: March ..	1.8	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.7
June ..	-0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.2	..

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>							
1958-59 ..	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1959-60 ..	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1960-61 ..	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1961-62 ..	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
1962-63 ..	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	124.5
1963-64 ..	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	125.7
1964-65 ..	128.8	132.2	133.9	128.6	127.6	133.6	130.4
1965-66 ..	133.1	137.1	140.4	132.7	132.5	138.3	135.2
1966-67 ..	136.3	140.7	144.0	136.9	137.9	141.2	138.8
1967-68 ..	140.6	145.9	148.8	140.8	141.9	147.7	143.4
<u>Quarter</u>							
1967: June ..	137.8	142.9	145.5	138.9	140.1	143.3	140.6
September	139.7	144.8	148.0	140.5	140.7	147.2	142.5
December	140.3	145.3	148.3	139.7	141.3	148.2	142.9
1968: March ..	140.7	146.0	149.4	140.5	142.2	147.6	143.5
June ..	141.7	147.4	149.4	142.6	143.4	147.7	144.6

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1967	April 1968	May 1968	June 1968
<u>Cereal Products</u>		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Bread, white (unwrapped and delivered)	2 lb loaf	16.7	18.0	18.0	18.0
Flour, plain ..	2 lb pkt	13.5	14.2	14.3	14.3
Flour, self-raising ..	2 lb pkt	16.2	17.3	17.3	17.3
Biscuits, wheatmeal ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	16.1	16.9	17.0	16.4
Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	17.0	17.4	17.8	18.0
Biscuits, dry ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	17.5	17.2	17.3	17.8
Oats, rolled ..	2 lb pkt	38.3	41.8	41.8	41.9
Rice ..	1 lb pkt	13.4	13.8	14.0	13.9
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered) ..	1 quart	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
Milk, powdered ..	12 oz tin	38.4	40.2	40.2	38.5
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz tin	21.3	22.0	21.8	22.2
Cheese, cheddar, matured ..	8 oz pkt	32.4	32.9	32.6	32.9
Cheese, cheddar, processed ..	8 oz pkt	25.1	24.2	25.2	23.8
Butter ..	1 lb	51.0	50.6	50.8	50.6
Eggs (24 oz in carton) ..	dozen	61.1	55.7	55.5	56.0

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane (continued)

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1967	April 1968	May 1968	June 1968
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>Fruit and Vegetables</u>					
Peaches, canned	29 oz tin	30.6	31.6	31.9	30.5
Pears, canned	29 oz tin	30.8	31.6	31.9	31.4
Sultanas	1 lb pkt	34.9	35.8	36.1	36.0
Peas, green, canned	15½ oz tin	22.3	20.6	20.1	19.1
Peas, frozen	10 oz pkt	28.4	27.0	26.0	26.0
Potatoes	7 lb	44.4	46.8	50.1	40.5
Onions	1 lb	8.5	13.3	13.0	13.8
<u>Beverages</u>					
Tea	½ lb pkt	30.9	30.8	30.8	30.8
Coffee, instant	2 oz jar	45.1	43.8	44.7	44.8
Cocoa	8 oz pkt	31.6	32.3	32.3	30.9
<u>Other Food (excluding meat)</u>					
Sugar	4 lb pkt	40.4	43.0	43.0	42.4
Jam, plum	1½ lb tin	24.4	24.4	24.6	24.6
Jam, marmalade	1½ lb tin	27.4	27.8	27.6	27.6
Honey, liquid	16 oz jar	27.4	27.4	26.9	26.8
Peanut Paste	4 oz jar	18.3	18.7	18.7	18.7
Beans, baked, canned	16 oz tin	16.8	16.4	16.0	16.2
Spaghetti, canned	16 oz tin	16.8	16.4	16.0	16.2
Margarine, table	½ lb	19.1	19.1	18.8	18.6
Sauce, tomato	10 oz bottle	22.5	22.5	22.7	22.4
Pickles, mustard	10 oz jar	24.2	24.4	24.4	24.4
Sardines, Norwegian	3¼ oz tin	16.0	16.2	15.9	16.1
Salmon, Australian, canned	16 oz tin	42.7	42.8	42.8	42.8
Soup, tomato	16 oz tin	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
			Quarter Ended June 1968		
<u>Meat</u>					
Beef, sirloin, roast	1 lb	57.8		59.3	
" , rib, roast (without bone)	1 lb	50.4		51.5	
" , steak, rump	1 lb	77.1		77.8	
" , steak, chuck	1 lb	47.9		48.6	
" , steak, blade	1 lb	57.5		57.9	
" , sausages	1 lb	26.6		26.9	
" , silverside, corned	1 lb	53.6		54.9	
" , brisket, corned	1 lb	40.7		41.2	
Mutton, leg	1 lb	34.6		34.7	
" , shoulder	1 lb	21.3		20.8	
" , chops, loin	1 lb	34.3		33.8	
" , chops, leg	1 lb	34.7		34.3	
Lamb, leg	1 lb	50.6		50.6	
" , shoulder	1 lb	31.2		31.3	
" , chops, loin	1 lb	53.0		54.4	
" , chops, leg	1 lb	52.5		54.5	
Pork, leg	1 lb	61.0		62.2	
" , loin	1 lb	60.8		61.5	
" , chops	1 lb	61.2		61.8	
Bacon, rashers, pre-packed	½ lb	51.0		52.4	

